PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Sells Interest in Italian Floor Machine Manufacturer

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 26, 2003--Ecolab Inc. announced it has sold its minority equity investment in Comac S.p.A., a floor care machine manufacturing company based in Verona, Italy, to an investment group for cash proceeds of approximately $18 million. Ecolab realized a gain of approximately $11 million ($6 million after tax) on the sale which will be recorded in Ecolab's third quarter. Ecolab's equity earnings from Comac were not material to operating results.

Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented, saying, "The Comac sale reflects Ecolab's ongoing focus on those areas where we can add the maximum value through our product and service business. We will retain a supply relationship with the new owners, enabling us to continue to serve our customers in this area. We will continue to invest in those areas where we can provide clear differentiation and that support our growth through our 'Circle the Customer - Circle the Globe' business strategy."

With sales of $3.4 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products for the hospitality, foodservice, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com.

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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